

Executive Registry

76-1661

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24 March 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with German Newspaper Correspondent
Armin Haas

25X1 At 1345 today I saw at my house a German newspaper correspondent
Armin Haas, whom I have known socially for some time. Haas has been
trying to see me for several weeks and because of his previous author-
ship of an inaccurate story concerning what he had been told by an
unnamed CIA official I had been avoiding him. He sent me word that he
[redacted] and I agreed to see him briefly
25X1 at my quarters at Fort Myer. He discussed the following matters:

2. Haas then asked what I thought of the Middle East situation. I said it was a potentially explosive situation that could blow up into a large conflict at any time and that this was unfortunately almost a permanent situation. He then asked whether I had ever heard about a theory that the Soviets were making strenuous military efforts but could not keep them up over a period of time and would therefore be compelled either to use their military forces or reduce their defense efforts. I said I had never heard of this theory and felt the Soviets

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were doing quite well just the way things were without having to jeopardize the base of the revolution (the Russian homeland). He then said that a number of people in Europe were questioning the reliability of the United States as an ally because of the confusion on the internal American scene and the Congress' incessant efforts to hamstring the President. I told him that this was a highly dangerous theory and that the fallacy of American impotence had been convincingly demonstrated in two world wars.

3. Haas stated that when he had been in the States three weeks ago (and he interjected that he did not wish to complain about this but merely make me aware of it) he had tried on at least 15 occasions to talk to Angus Thuermer or [redacted] and they had put him off. He found this strange since on previous occasions they had been quite willing to talk to him. I told him that I would be completely frank with him and that this was the result of his writing an inaccurate and misleading story involving the Agency and causing difficulties for it. He accepted the reason and hoped that he would not be denied further access to the Assistant to the Director in the future.

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I asked him to pass on my regards [redacted] and my regret that I could not give him any information on [redacted]

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Vernon A. Walters
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

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